CURSE OF THE SPAWN

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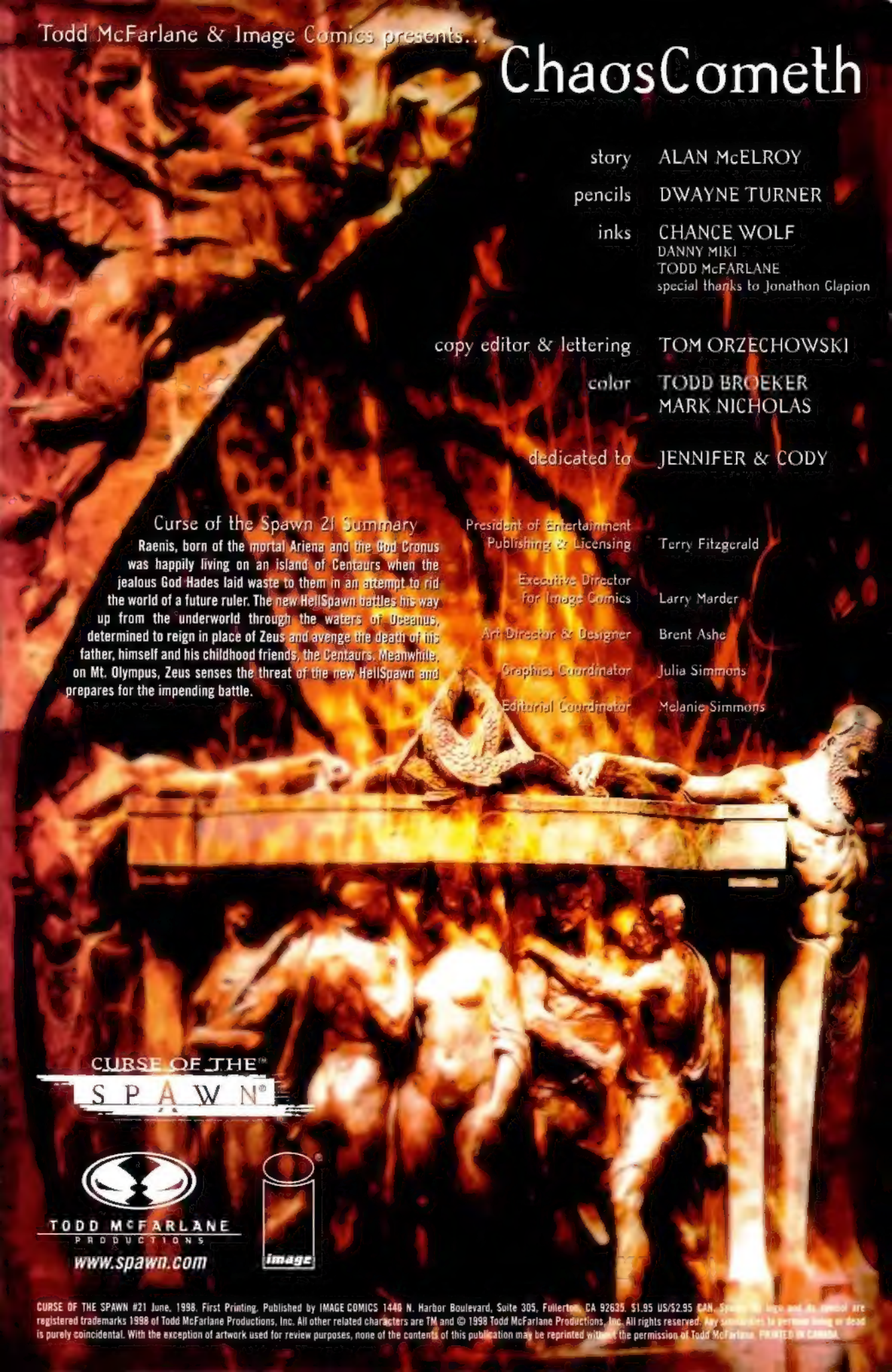
Todd McFarlane & Image Comics presents...
ChaosCometh
story ALAN McELROY
pencils DWAYNE TURNER
inks CHANCE WOLF
DANNY MIKI
TODD McFARLANE
special thanks to Jonathon Glapion
copy editor & lettering TOM ORZECHOWSKI
color TODD BROEKER
MARK NICHOLAS
dedicated to JENNIFER & CODY
Curse of the Spawn 21 Summary
Raenis, born of the mortal Ariena and the God Cronus was happily living on an island of Centaurs when the jealous God Hades laid waste to them in an attempt to rid the world of a future ruler. The new HellSpawn battles his way up from the underworld through the waters of Oceanus, determined to reign in place of Zeus and avenge the death of his father, himself and his childhood friends, the Centaurs. Meanwhile, on Mt. Olympus, Zeus senses the threat of the new HellSpawn and prepares for the impending battle.
President of Entertainment Publishing & Licensing Terry Fitzgerald
Executive Director for Image Comics Larry Marder
Art Director & Designer Brent Ashe
Graphics Coordinator Julia Simmons
Editorial Coordinator Melanie Simmons
CURSE OF THE SPAWN
TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
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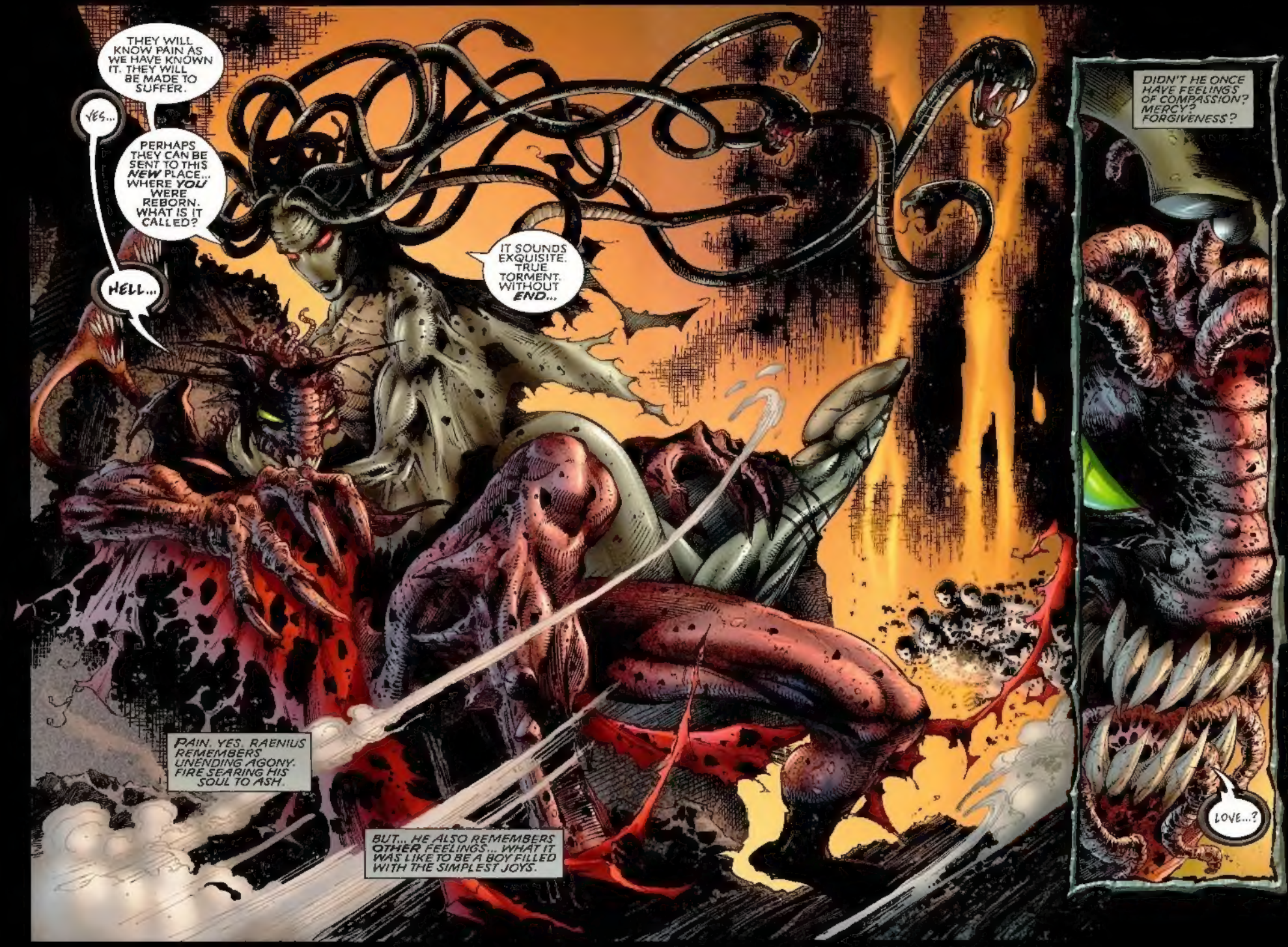
MEDUSA'S CAVE OF WOE.
PAIN LIVES HERE.
MISERY KNOWS NO RESPITE.
BUT LOVE HAS BLOSSOMED. AMIDST DEATH, PUNISHMENT, AND DAMNATION.
REST, MY LOVE. SOON THE WORLD WILL BE OURS. THE HUMAN RACE WILL BOW BEFORE US.
AND THE GODS...


THEY WILL KNOW PAIN AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT. THEY WILL BE MADE TO SUFFER.
YES...
PERHAPS THEY CAN BE SENT TO THIS NEW PLACE... WHERE YOU WERE REBORN. WHAT IS IT CALLED?
HELL...
IT SOUNDS EXQUISITE. TRUE TORMENT. WITHOUT END...
PAIN. YES. RAENIUS REMEMBERS UNENDING AGONY. FIRE SEARING HIS SOUL TO ASH.
BUT... HE ALSO REMEMBERS OTHER FEELINGS... WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A BOY FILLED WITH THE SIMPLEST JOYS.
DIDN'T HE ONCE HAVE FEELINGS OF COMPASSION? MERCY? FORGIVENESS?
LOVE...?

ALL OF THAT... BURNED AWAY WHEN ZEUS HURLED HIM INTO THE FIRES OF MOUNT ESTES. A HALF MILE TUMBLE INTO A SEA OF MAGMA. FLESH BROILED AWAY... SECONDS OF DIRE ANGUISH STRETCHED INTO A FIERY ETERNITY.
AND THEN...
Raenius... welcome You can call me... Daddy.
THERE IS NO LIGHT IN HELL... NO GOODNESS... NO HOPE. BUT THERE IS MALEBOLGIA'S PROMISE...
RULE OVER THE EARTH... AND VENGEANCE.

OLYMPUS
YOU SUMMONED ME, FATHER?
I NEED YOUR SKILLS, APOLLO, MY SON. THERE IS A MONSTER AMONG US...
... ONE OF MY OWN MAKING.
YOU KNOW THE PAST...
... HOW CRONUS, MY FATHER, FORETOLD THAT ONE OF HIS CHILDREN WOULD USURP HIM, AND SO CHOSE TO EAT HIS OWN OFF-SPRING, SWALLOWING THEM WHOLE.
BUT RHEA, MY MOTHER, HID ME... GIVING CRONUS A SWADDLED ROCK TO EAT INSTEAD.

WHEN I REACHED MATURITY, I RETURNED... AND MADE WAR AGAINST CRONUS. DEFEATING HIM AND THE OTHER TITANS ANY WAY I KNEW HOW. I ADMIT TO RUTHLESSNESS. I'M NOT ASHAMED. I MADE HIM VOMIT UP MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS...
...AND WE BECAME THE GODS.
NOW WE RULED... THE TITANS WE CAST OUT.
NO ONE COULD CHALLENGE US.
BUT THEN A SEER TOLD ME OF ANOTHER CHILD... A BASTARD SON OF CRONUS BORN TO A HUMAN WOMAN... THE CHILD'S NAME WAS RAENIUS... AND IT WAS HIS DESTINY TO DESTROY ME AND REIGN OVER ALL THE UNIVERSE...
I BECAME OBSESSED... SPENT YEARS HUNTING DOWN RAENIUS... UNTIL I FOUND THE CHILD... AND KILLED HIM...
THE SINS OF THE FATHER VISITED UPON THE SON...
NOW, RAENIUS HAS RETURNED. A MONSTER FROM A PLACE CALLED HELL... OUT FOR REVENGE. HE CARES NOTHING FOR US. FOR OLYMPUS. HE WILL LAY WASTE TO EVERYTHING WE'VE BUILT.
ALL HE WANTS IS BLOOD... AND... I CAN'T FAULT HIM FOR THAT...
AND STOP HIM.
FATHER... I WILL FIND THIS CREATURE.

A BATTLEFIELD--
--ONCE A VILLAGE, NOW REDUCED TO STEAMING RUINS--
--THEIR FACES FROZEN IN SOUL-NUMBING TERROR.
MEDUSA'S ARMY OF DEAD MEN MOVE THROUGH THE VILLAGE, SETTING FIRES AND SHATTERING THE STONE SOLDIERS.
--STANDS AS A MONUMENT TO A PHALANX OF WARRIORS TURNED HORRIBLY TO STONE--
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL, MY SWEET?
A FESTIVAL OF BLOOD TO CELEBRATE OUR COURTSHIP.

YOUR BEAUTY TURNS THE HUMANS TO STONE.
AND THOSE WHO WON'T OPEN THEIR EYES TO BEHOLD ME... ARE CRUCIFIED.
THEIR BLOOD IS THE AMBROSIA OF OUR LOVE.
BLOOD RUNS IN RIVERS.

WE ARE LIKE OURANOS AND GAIA... FATHER HEAVEN AND MOTHER EARTH... CREATING AN ENTIRELY NEW WORLD.
OUR WORLD.
I HAVE TO GO TO OLYMPUS. DEAL WITH ZEUS ONCE AND FOR ALL. I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THE SLAIN CENTAURS... MY FRIENDS. AND WHAT ABOUT MY MOTHER...?
I'M SORRY, RAENIUS... YOUR MOTHER IS DEAD. SLAUGHTERED BY ZEUS IN HIS QUEST TO FIND YOU.
MY... MOTHER...? DEAD?
SHE DIED PROTECTING YOU, MY LOVE...

ZEUS!
OLYMPUS!
DEATHH!
SMLURP
FOR LUCK

THE FORGE OF STEROPES. CYCLOPS. WEAPONMAKER OF THE GODS.
I NEED SOME-THING SPECIAL
YOU INSULT ME, APOLLO. EVERYTHING STEROPES MAKES IS SPECIAL.
THIS IS DIFFERENT. I NEED TO KILL A NEW KIND OF MONSTER. IT COMES FROM A PLACE CALLED HELL.
HELL? NEVER HEARD OF IT.

KROOM!
KROOM!
I'VE COME FOR WEAPONS, CYCLOPS! THOSE FORGED FOR A GOD CAN SURELY KILL HIM!
WHICH ARE FOR ZEUS?
I WANT TO SLAY THE KING OF THE GODS WITH HIS OWN SWORD.

DIE!
FUEL.
ANGER.
FEED MY RAGE.
SEE ME.
I AM DEATH.

NEXT.
NO... WAIT!
ZEUS TOLD ME WHAT HE DID...
HE'S MY FATHER... AND... I'M SORRY TO SAY IT, BUT...
...HE DESERVES WHAT HE GETS.
ZEUS IS A RUTHLESS DICTATOR. HE SERVES ONLY HIMSELF -- HIS OWN DESIRES HE RAPED LETO, MY MOTHER... I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM...
I HATE HIM... AS A GOD, HE'S A MONSTER... I WON'T SIDE WITH YOU BUT I WON'T STOP YOU EITHER..
FINE..
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, STAY OUT OF OLYMPUS, CHANGE YOUR MIND, CROSS MY PATH... AND NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU.
NOTHING.

NO WORD FROM APOLLO
HERA... I WANT YOU TO KNOW...
I'M SORRY FOR THE PAIN I'VE CAUSED YOU FOR SO LONG. THE FIGHTS, THE AFFAIRS... THE HATE WITHOUT REASON
I NEED YOUR HELP, MY LOVE.
GO TO THE HECATONCHEIRES. TO BRIAREUS. HE ALWAYS WANTED YOU. GIVE YOURSELF TO HIM IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS ALLEGIANCE AGAINST THIS HELLSPAWN.
BROTHER, HUSBAND... YOU SICKEN ME. I WILL DO THIS ONE LAST THING FOR YOU. OUT OF LOVE. BUT I WON'T BE COMING BACK TO OLYMPUS
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR PRECIOUS LIFE, ZEUS.. BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO LIVE IT ALONE.

RAENIUS CANNOT BE STOPPED.
HELL POWERS HIM
HATE DRIVES HIM
ONLY BLOOD WILL SATISFY THE THIRST RAGING IN THE DEPTHS OF HIS OBSIDIAN SOUL.
HE FACES BRIAREUS-- ONE OF THE HECATONCHEIRES. FIRST OF THE GREAT MONSTERS. THE CHILDREN OF OURANOS AND GAIA. EACH BORN WITH FIFTY HEADS AND A HUNDRED HANDS
SO HIDEOUS WERE THESE BEASTS THAT OURANOS HAD HIS OWN OFFSPRING CAST DEEP BENEATH THE EARTH.
BUT ZEUS RELEASED THE HECATONCHEIRES TO AID HIM IN HIS WAR AGAINST THE TITANS, AGAINST CRONUS. BRIAREUS WAS THE MOST MERCILESS OF ALL. A DESTROYER OF WORLDS.

ZEUS CONSULTS HIS POOL OF VISIONS
BRAREUS HAS BATTLED THE HELL-SPAWN.
EXCELLENT
BRIAREUS

ZEUS!
I'VE COME FOR YOU!!
THEN YOU'VE COME TO DIE.
KAKK
KAKK

YOU'RE A MURDERER, ZEUS. A BUTCHER!
FAITHLESS... NARCISSISTIC...
A HORRIBLE KING... A SOULLESS GOD...
DRUNK ON YOUR OWN POWER. RAPING THE WORLD FOR YOUR OWN SICK PLEASURE!
STOP! THIS! DAMN YOU!

YOU CAN'T EVEN FACE YOURSELF, ZEUS.
No!
SHUT UP!
GO... LEAVE ME ALONE!
I WAS JUST A BOY!
YOU TOWERED OVER ME. A GOD, TERRIFIED OF AN INNOCENT CHILD!
NOOO... PLEASE...

YOU THREW ME INTO THE FIRE, ZEUS.
BUT NOW, THE FIRE IS INSIDE ME!
Noo... Nooo!
GOTA
BURN.

RAENIUS
KING
GOD.
OF
RULER OF THE UNIVERSE.
HIS LONG AND BLOODY REIGN HAS GONE UNDOCUMENTED IN THE ANNALS OF HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY FOR REASONS THAT ARE...
... BEST LEFT FOR ANOTHER STORY...

BlahBlahBlah

BlahBlahBlah_68
w/terry fitzgerald
tdfitz@aol.com

Back in the US of A! We all have been real busy since the last book. Julia Simmons and her entire marketing staff are busting their humps promoting the X-Files action figures, as well as the KISS Psycho Circus line. Both lines look really cool. Expect to see them on shelves sometime June or July. They are also busy setting up this years tour of the two Spawn vans that criss cross the country in search of "those who do not know Spawn". Yes, there are still a few out there.

Props have to go out to Brent Ashe, our most talented graphic designer. Brent won a Graphis award for his new cover designs for the Spawn trade paperbacks. Congrats Brent and good job. In case you missed these books. Brent created a whole new look for the line, using photos mutated in Photoshop. Look for them at your fave comic shop.

Ted Adams and I just returned from the huge monstrosity of a video game show, E3, in Atlanta. What a show! You could easily put two or three San Diego Comic Cons inside the floor space of one E3 event. What games looked interesting there? Not much to tell you the truth. Sony was showing "Bust A Rhyme". This game is hysterical. You pick your favorite "disco" dancer from a slew of different characters and the object is to have the coolest moves on the one dance floor. You can either play alone or compete against your buddy. What a blast. The game has been out in Japan for about six months or so and has been selling really well there.

Probably the best game at the show was "Metal Gear Solid" from Konami. Imagine a game that's a combination "Golden Eye" on the Nintendo 64 and a military type adventure game. This will be for 1998 what "Resident Evil" was for 1997. The game has three or four different camera angles that change throughout the game. This is not going to be just another shooter as there are a lot of different aspects thrown in that have never been seen before. For example, the opening eyes have you outside in the middle of a military camp and it's snowing. If you take too long, you will catch a cough or a sniffle that might alert one of the guards who you are trying to pick off on your mission. Expect this on shelves this November.

Sony had another kick ass party this year. Imagine about 4,000 people scoffing down all the free sushi you could eat, hitting the complimentary bar every six minutes and getting down to the party sounds of Foo Fighters. What a blast. The Foo were wicked, rocking on for about two hours straight.

I'm off to NY this week to attend the Licensing Show. Hopefully there will be a cool property that we can license to produce action figures of their characters. The weekend following will have me moshing at RFK stadium for the Tibetan Freedom Concert. Guest acts include REM, Pumpkins, Pearl Jam, Beck, Beasties, and on and on. Two days of kick ass tunes in support of a very important cause. For those of you want to know more information on this cause, check out "www.tibet98.com".

Lastly, check out the photos. Even though everyone is busy working on this thing called Spawn, Todd and Al still take time out to play a little ball. Baseball of course. Neither one can remember if their swings resulted in a hit, so let's assume they both hit triples!

-until next issue, terry fitzgerald

Curse Words
P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228
www.spawn.com

Dear peop e who bring me Spawn

For some t me now I've been collect ng Spawn. I started after read ng the f rst 14 issues or so I borrowed from a friend of mine because the story line was fantastic and I th nk a good story line is the most important part of entertainment such as comics Now Spawn developed as a character, which s also quite a good th ng he became more dark, more evil, something that could mean a welcome change n the story line

But then came success. Todd McFarlane Industr es was making a lot of money on movies, toys and other merchandise and things were look ng good for ma n man Todd. Todd who wou d never allow prof t to come before quality What a guy

But being preoccup ed with movies, toys and s tcoms(!) Todd kinda forgot that t tle creat on' of h s. That th ng that made him rich, our friend Spawn

Spawn became a dark evil person. And he kept becoming this Occas onally, Cogliostro would tell him not to do this and occasiona y his or gin would be reprinted In a l other cases Spawn just battles some guys You see blood and gore sell story lines don't. They just get you started And while Todd is sign ng multi-m ion dollar contracts, poor stories are be ng wr tten

What the hel happened to a the great characters in Spawn? They keep getting story lines in Curse of the Spawn but they never appear in the main t t e and great stuff could be done with them. The battle between heaven and he between good and evil between right and wrong, those were the interesting things. They made the story. Make Spawn (nter)act aga n, make h m do someth ng more than just kill R ght now everyone knows of h s wo m problem and of h.s origin Come on, think of a plot! Because I don't be eve the past ten issues or so are leading anywhere. I know you're a busy man, but you re a wr ter in the first p ace And if you don't want to be that, find a good replacement for yourself so you can concentrate on making more money than Bil Gates Read the stor es you've been doing for a wh le now Are you really sat sfied w th them? Because I'm not and a lot of friends agree with me P ease put some qua ty in your com c again

Gerr t Kamee
Urk The Nether ands

Let's see if we can't answer some of the questions you pose here. Some of the characters you like are in the Curse for two reasons. One, I need to showcase them and two, Curse of the Spawn was created to showcase characters that would normally not get the attention in the regular Spawn book (i e. Jason Wynn, Antonio Twistelli, Sam and Twitch and Wanda). But at the same time, if I know in a month I'm going to be having an Anthony Twistelli story, I don't necessarily want to have him in the regular book because then it tends to confuse people because of this thing we call continuity. Whenever I talk to Alan McElroy, he tells me what characters are coming up in the Curse book. Then, I tend to steer clear of them for about six or seven months before and after their appearance in the Curse book so as to not trip over any story line coming out in that book and the after effects of the ending of his story. When they do appear back in my comic then I'll pick them up where they left off in the Curse book.

Also, the perception people have because you have a couple of things that sell better than everybody else's that suddenly you are a trillionare, is totally amusing to me. Even if that were a fact, which it's far from the truth, that isn't why I do what I do. I created a character (visually) in 1978 and put his first comic book out in 1992 with a story line. When I left Marvel comics, the intent was to A. show people you could create your own stuff and control it in a way that I see fit as an individual. And B. that I could take this creation and potentially bring it out to the world. My goal was always to see if I could create a Spiderman, Batman, Superman and a household name and the only way that you can do that, unfortunately, is if it's successful. And if it's successful, then also, unfortunately, I guess, people have to buy stuff or look at stuff and then again, unfortunately, then people give me checks. The money is a by-product of me doing my job well and not the end goal of it. The only way you can create a household name is that if literally billions of people know about it and the only way billions of people are going to know about it is if it is commercially sound and money flows from commerce. It seems to be an easy, knee-jerk reaction that I find a lot of society has a tendency to make is that somehow, those who have succeeded in their goals to a level that pays them a little bit more should somehow be guilty for that success. At no point will I ever apologize for being successful and doing what I want to do. That doesn't mean that others are failures in my mind. It's just that I've been given more opportunities than most people. If anything, I'm proud that I haven't squandered the opportunity like I've seen others around me in the other arenas that I deal with.

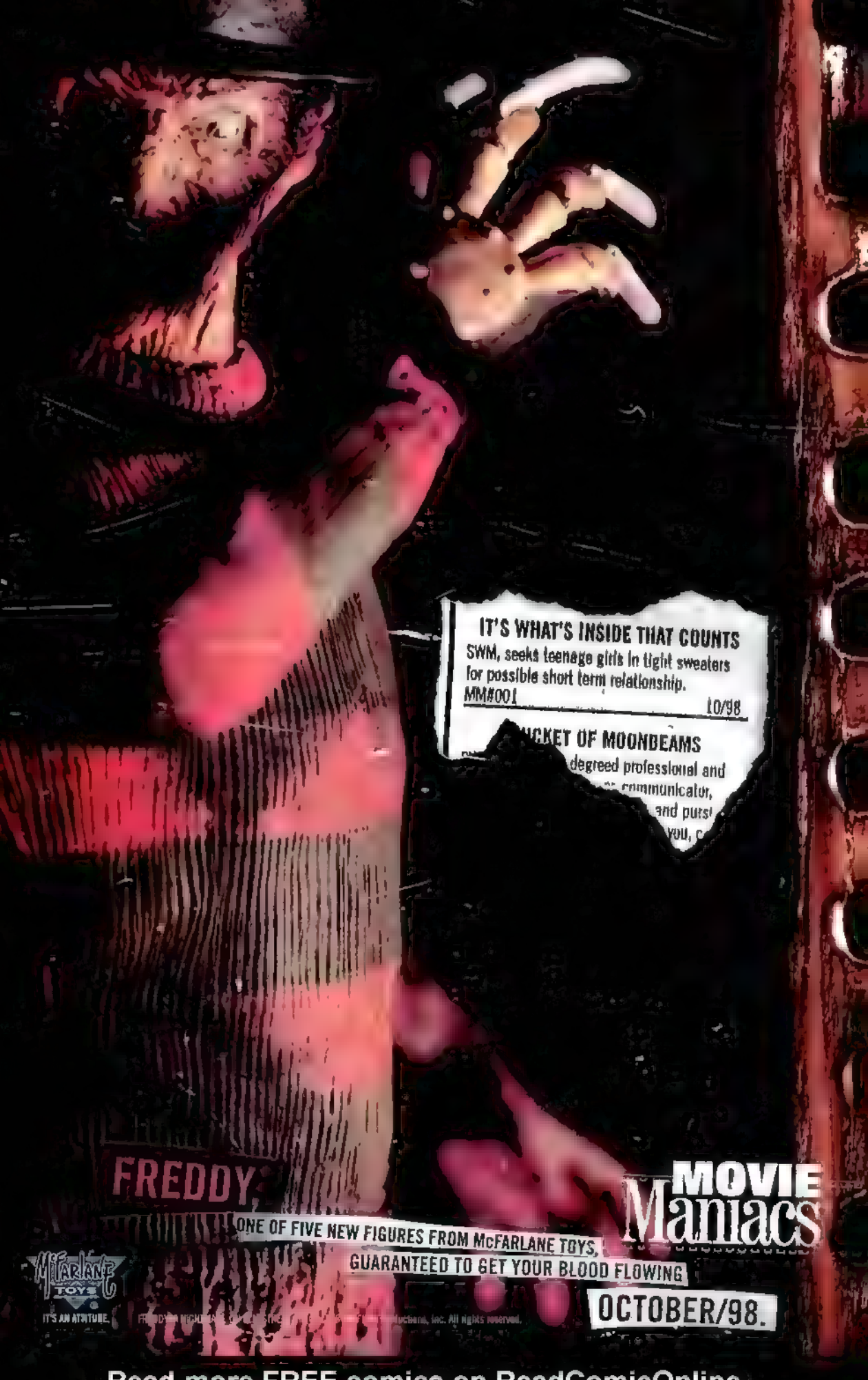
As for your question about the story much like a previous letter, I've got a new writer coming on to help me with the story to focus in on it to give it some kind of purpose. Brian Holguin, who writes the KISS: Psycho Circus comic book will be coming on and we'll be plotting the book together and writing it heading toward issue #100 Let me also state here what I'll be doing with Spawn, just to give you fair warning- I want to turn it into an urban horror comic book. The things that don't interest me are the kind of fantasy elements of comic books. I'm more concerned about doing stories that could potentially take place in the real world and have a bit of suspense added to them instead of fantasies. I don't know if that's to anybody's liking but it's the direction I'm heading. Hope you give me a chance to see what we've got coming up in the future. Take care

Dear Todd

H Thanks for s gning our mov e theater tickets of Spawn My son and I enjoyed the mov e a lot and are anx ously wa ting for the sequel! We were f rst in line at the f rst show ng on the first opening day and sat in the f rst row You are first #1 in our book!

Quest on in Curse of the Spawn #19 about in the midd e of the book, right after Cog says "Fate shows no mercy", on the next page there is a monster with a huge chain saw To the right of th s monster's head are two television sets or computer monitors On the screen of these two sets or monitors are the faces of two men One man has his hand up to his ch n and has a mo stache The other man "k nd of" looks like you Am I close? It is neat find ng add tiona messages/ mages in your books k ke this

A so on the front cover of Curse #19 is a 1/8" dot on the over r ght of the book right over the left eye of one of the litt e monsters I checked w th my com c book dealer and every one of h s books had th s defect flaw on them Did the distr butor mess up? My book appears as if someone f pped through the first f ve pages crump ng up the midd e of each page I exchanged that one



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WELCOME TO THE PSYCHO CIRCUS

The second series of Kiss figures, KISS-Psycho Circus, is just arriving on store shelves throughout America. Picking up where the previous KISS toys left off, the new series has even more detail than before. The line is based on the KISS: Psycho Circus comic printed monthly from Todd McFarlane Productions.

The figures come in special color-coded blister cards, wider than the previous line. The band members are all packaged as incarnations of the Elders and are packed alongside their Psycho Circus counterparts/alter egos/whatever, so you actually get TWO figures for the price of one.

The Elders are timeless forces represented by humans who act like conduits for their power. Currently the Four-Who-Are-Elders are incarnated as workers in a traveling circus, roaming the land and dealing with lost souls.

The epic Elder is the King of Beasts, Peter Criss with the Animal Wrangler. As the embodiment of primal animal instincts, Peter has chains, a studded collar, and a "fur" cape. The Wrangler is also a hustler named Tiberius. He's not wearing a KISS T-shirt, but comes with a whip AND a panther to tame.

The Starbearer is next, Paul Stanley as an avatar of passion and pain and comes with a mystic sword and scabbard. Paul also has a bladed weapon that transforms into his jetpack. His alter ego, the Jester, has juggling balls, a bowling pin and a poodle with an attitude. While he now looks like a clown, he was once a diminutive poet named Fortunado.

The final member of the quartet is the spirit of the Celestial. That's Ace Frehley, who embodies the harmony of the cosmos. As befitting someone who represents balance, his alter ego is the Stiltman. The Stiltman (previously the mute Stargrave) can be perched on his extensions to look down over the entire circus.

All the KISS-Psycho Circus band members have metallic paint, rooted hair and most feature metal chains. As before, each case holds three complete sets of the band, so there are no short packs. The toys will be carried in a wide range of shops, including toy, department, music and videos stores. They will retail for around $10 - $12 each.

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ON TO THE LETTERS THIS MONTH:

Adam Feutz, Jason Thompson and Nick Donahue asked about the movie Spawn figures they bought, where it looked like Spawn but without a mask. You aren't missing a mask; that version came both with and without one. We just didn't show all the variations on the card. That happens sometimes because of running changes in a product, trying to improve it while it's still being produced. In Spawn's case, we shipped both masked and unmasked versions at the same time simply because in the movie he went without his mask even more often than he wore it.

Michael Norton of Mableton Georgia sent us a picture of his impressive collection of figures and asked whether we'd ever make a Spawn Impaler figure. There are no plans at [illegible] but you might be interested in the [illegible] figures shipping around the month of October. It will include a different version of Spawn straight from the comic book, replacing the previously announced Cy-Gor II figure (Cy-Gor will now ship separately as a boxed figure).

Leo Williams and John Whitsel Jr. both asked about getting a Spawn III figure. While the McFarlane Toys Collector's Club doesn't sell them yet, just be patient. There will be some more news soon on that toy however, we can't announce anything at this time.

Eric Agustinus from Jakarta, Indonesia e-mailed us asking why the Malebolgia's hair as a toy doesn't look like the one in the comic book. There are a couple of things that don't translate well from any drawing: clothing and hair. They're both a matter of scale; while you can draw anything to hang/lie/flow a certain way, when you come down to doing it in a six inch figure you're limited by the thickness of fibers. Cloth capes and outfits don't hang well, since the fabric is twelve times thicker than it should be if it was for a six-foot tall person. Likewise hair: it's easier to mold most hairstyles in plastic to ensure that they look right. In Malebolgia's case, we used a nylon hair plug that simulated his comic hairstyle, but were unable to match it exactly.

Den Phan from toshiba.com asked us whether we considered making any statues of our figures in a larger size. We have thought about something in that vein, but not necessarily of action figures. We have produced 13" action figures of Spawn, Angela, Medieval Spawn and Violator and they shipped last year, but I think you're talking more along the lines of ceramic or resin statues. We'll have more information as soon as we iron out all the details. He also asked if we'd release Todd the Bum in the larger regular movie size, because he wanted more of Todd. There's always a chance he will be in the assortments based on the next movie!

The winner of the Green Cosmic Angela this month is Ray Schalg, who sent in a two page letter about the toys, reselling figures, collecting in general, and his family. You can win a free toy, too! Simply send us your questions, comments, or artwork about toys. Each month we award one Limited Edition Green Cosmic Angela, so drop us a line!

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May 1998

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McFarlane Toys

ATTITUDE.

KISS
PSYCHO CIRCUS

KISS Psycho Circus *from* McFarlane Toys.

Each band member comes packaged with his alter ego
from the KISS Psycho Circus comic book:

Available at toy stores and selected music outlets nationwide June ~ 1998

The KISS Psycho Circus comic book is available monthly, call 888-COMIC-BOOK to find a comic shop near you.

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Todd McFarlane TOYS

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THE X FILES™

THEATERS AND TOY SHELVES
JUNE 1998

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DarthScanner

DMT